

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 15-23, 29, 30, and 35-43. The Examiner also objected to claims 2-8, 10-14, 24-28, and 31-34 as depending from a rejected base, but including allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

By this paper, Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 31 and have amended claims 1, 3, 29, 32, 33, and 43. These amendments do not add any new matter and support for the amendments may be found at least on page 34, line 1 – page 35, line 4 of the originally filed specification. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 3-30, and 32-43 remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Interview Summary

Applicants note that the Examiner initiated an interview with Applicants' representatives on September 21, 2010. During this interview, the Examiner brought a newly found reference, U.S. 6,775,657, to Applicants attention and also suggested that allowable subject matter might be present in dependent claim 2. As Applicants had not had an opportunity to review any rejections made in light of U.S. 6,775,657, Applicants' representatives requested that an Office Action be mailed out that included any proposed combination of U.S. 6,775,657 so that Applicants might consider the newly found art as a whole. Furthermore, no agreement was made with respect to any claim amendments.

Independent Claims 1 and 29

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 2 and 31 include allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action, page 6. To further prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 29, respectively, to include all recitations of allowable claims 2 and 31.

Based at least on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record fails to teach all elements of amended independent claims 1 and 29. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of independent claims 1 and 29, as well as all claims depending therefrom.

Independent Claim 43

In the Office Action, the Examiner also noted that claim 10 includes allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action, page 6. To further prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claim 43 to include recitations similar scope to those set forth in allowable claim 10. Based at least on this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record fails to teach all elements of amended independent claim 43. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record fails to teach, at least, “determining a slack parameter based upon a number of successive time periods that pass when no new requests are made to send data from the first host to hosts not in the record and when the slack parameter exceeds a predetermined value, allowing unimpeded passage of data from the first host to destination hosts not in the record,” as recited in independent claim 43. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of independent claim 43.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 27, 2011

/Matthew C. Dooley/
Matthew C. Dooley
Reg. No. 61,996
FLETCHER YODER
7915 FM 1960 West, Suite 330
Houston, TX 77070
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Attn: IP Administration, Legal Department
PO Box 272400
Ft. Collins CO 80527-2400